

United States District Court

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

V.

Baljit Singh**ORDER OF DETENTION
PENDING TRIAL**Case Number: 1:08 MJ 338

In accordance with the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f), a detention hearing has been held. I conclude that the following facts require the detention of the defendant pending trial in this case.

Part I – Findings of Fact

(1) The defendant is charged with an offense described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) and has been convicted of a federal offense state or local offense that would have been a federal offense if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed – that is
 a crime of violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3156(a)(4).
 an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death.
 an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in _____
 A felony that was committed after the defendant had been convicted of two or more prior federal offenses described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1)(A)-(C), or comparable state or local offenses.

(2) The offense described in finding (1) was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a federal, state or local offense.

(3) A period of not more than five years has elapsed since the date of conviction release of the defendant from imprisonment for the offense described in finding (1).

(4) Findings Nos. (1),(2) and (3) establish a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of (an) other person(s) and the community. I further find that the defendant has not rebutted this presumption.

Alternate Findings (A)

(1) There is probable cause to believe that the defendant has committed an offense
 for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act
 under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

(2) The defendant has not rebutted the presumption established by finding (1) that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community.

Alternate Findings (B)

(1) There is a serious risk that the defendant will not appear.
 (2) There is a serious risk that the defendant will endanger the safety of another person or the community.

Part II – Written Statement of Reasons for Detention

I find that the credible testimony and information submitted at the hearing establish by a preponderance of the evidence that

defendant is a 36-year-old man born in India. He is a legal resident alien living in Washington State with his wife and employed as a truck driver. Although his ties to the U.S. are significant, he also has significant ties to India, to which he has travelled with regularity. He also travels frequently to Canada, with 14 documented border crossings in the last year. He has no ties to this district. Defendant and 5 other men were arrested on April 29, 2008, with 64 kilograms of cocaine, apparently destined for Canada. This cocaine operation appears well organized and well financed, as the cocaine has a wholesale value exceeding \$1 million. Defendant rented the "chase car," which was following the trucks containing the drugs. One of the truck drivers reported to officers after arrest that the men in the car were "drug dealers" and had coerced and threatened him to transport the cocaine. Given the nature of the offense, the high incentive to flee, defendant's ties to India, and his lack of ties to this district, the court concludes that he poses a serious risk of flight.

Part III – Directions Regarding Detention

The defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility shall deliver the defendant to the United States marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

May 07, 2008

Date

/s/ Joseph G. Scoville

Signature of Judge

Joseph G. Scoville, United States Magistrate Judge
Name and Title of Judge